Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 SSO-00 SS-15 SP-02 INR-07 NEA-10 EUR-12 NSC-05 CIAE-00 PRS-01 PA-01 DHA-02 IO-13 ISO-00 /079 W

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R 181041Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4879
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

CONFIDENTIAL KHARTOUM 2374

E.O. 11652: GDS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TAGS: PINS, PINT, SHUM, SU

SUBJECT: DOMESTIC POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

REF: KHARTOUM 2268 AND PREVIOUS

1. NIMEIRI'S EFFORTS NEUTRALIZE DOMESTIC POLITICAL
OPPOSITION (REFTELS) APPEAR TO BE MOVING TOWARD CLIMAX.
RELIABLE SOURCES HAVE INDICATED TO EMBOFFS THAT AGREEMENT
WAS REACHED BETWEEN NIMEIRI AND SADIQ AL-MAHDI DURING MEETING
IN PORT SUDAN WHEREBY SADIQ WILL RETURN TO SUDAN. AS PART OF
AGREEMENT, OVER 800 POLITICAL PRISONERS RELEASED FROM JAIL
JULY 16. FYI -- THIS NUMBER DID NOT INCLUDE COMMUNISTS
WHO REMAIN IN PRISON. END FYI.

2. FOLLOWING NIMEIRI'S PARTICIPATION IN ANSAR FESTIVAL (REFTEL) HE MET IN HIS OFFICE SATURDAY FOR THREE HOURS WITH AHMED AL-MAHDI. SUNA REPORTED MEETING DISCUSSED, AMONG OTHER SUBJECTS, NATIONAL UNITY AND CREATION OF COHESION CONFIDENTIAL

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BETWEEN SUDANESE CITIZENS. AHMED AL-MAHDI PRAISED NIMEIRI'S EFFORTS TO UNIFY CITIZENS AND SAID QUOTE NEXT FEW DAYS UNQUOTE WILL WITNESS POSITIVE OUTCOME TO THESE EFFORTS. NIMEIRI IS SCHEDULED TO ADDRESS NATION OVER TELEVISION EVENING OF JULY 18, AND THERE IS GENERAL EXPECTATION HE WILL MAKE PUBLIC HIS MEETING WITH SADIQ AND AGREEMENTS TWO MEN REACHED.

3. COMMENT: AS DEPT AWARE, WE HAVE KNOWN FOR SOME TIME THAT NIMEIRI WAS MAKING MAJOR EFFORT TO REACH ACCOMMODATION WITH SADIQ AL-MAHDI AND THAT PART OF PACKAGE WOULD BE WHOLESALE RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS. IT NOW APPEARS THAT GENERAL AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED AND IS BEING IMPLEMENTED. NIMEIRI'S FACE THE NATION SPEECH MONDAY EVENING EXPECTED TO BE FIRST PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS AND SPEECH LIKELY TO GIVE INDICATION OF JUST HOW SUCCESSFUL NIMEIRI'S EFFORTS HAVE BEEN. BERGUS

NOTE BY OC/T: DISTRIBUTION COORDINATED WITH MS LONGETEIG S/S-O.

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TAGS: PINS, PINT, SHUM, SU, (SADIQ AL-MAHDI), (NIMEIRI, JAFAR)

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